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**Committee for Programme and Coordination****Forty-third session**

9 June to 3 July 2003

Agenda item 9

**Adoption of the report of the Committee  
on its forty-third session**

*Rapporteur:* Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

**Addendum****Coordination questions: report of the United Nations system  
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

*(Item 5 (a))*

**Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief  
Executives Board for Coordination for 2002**

1. At its 6th meeting on 11 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2002 (E/2003/55). The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.
2. It was noted that the annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2002 provided a good general overview of CEB activities, especially with respect to the follow-up to the Millennium Summit and the reporting on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, as well as the United Nations system's support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). However, the observation was made that the report should provide adequate data or evidence on results or outcomes of inter-agency coordination. Efforts should be made to avoid repetitive and vague reporting by providing more specific examples of actual accomplishments of CEB. Although the reform and restructuring of the Board and its subsidiary bodies were highly appreciated, it was felt that more needed to be done in regard to follow-up action.



3. CEB was asked to elaborate on the outcomes of its efforts in inter-agency coordination in future reports, providing more analysis to show visible results. It was observed that the report did not fully reflect the work of CEB and that the focus of reporting should relate more to its action-oriented work. It was also suggested that a performance and evaluation regime to measure CEB achievements would prove helpful.
4. The view was expressed that CEB should make further efforts in the area of collaboration in investments in information and communications technology, as suggested by the Board of Auditors (A/57/5 (Vol. 1), para. 177). As for staff security and safety, it was noted that a new inter-agency cost sharing agreement had already been reached. It was explained that the United Nations SECOORD was independently responsible for managing the inter-agency cost sharing arrangements. CEB efforts were focused primarily on the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in the United Nations workplace.
5. In 2002, for the first time, CEB had considered the possible roles its member organizations could play in the prevention of armed conflict. An integrated approach to preventing armed conflicts was suggested in order to incorporate political, economic and social dimensions. The issue of refugees was also addressed and it was felt that coordination of efforts in that area should be given more attention. Care should also be exercised in linking refugees and terrorism, as refugees were usually victims of conflicts, and were escaping social, political and economic tensions and dangerous circumstances in their home countries.
6. The report reflected the continued support of CEB for NEPAD and the need for greater system-wide support and coordination, particularly at the country level, was stressed. Consultations held by CEB with the NEPAD countries and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) were welcomed. It was pointed out that the section on NEPAD in the report on inter-agency cooperation should be expanded, given the importance of NEPAD to the United Nations system. It was observed that doubling official development assistance for Africa was not enough; attention needed to be given to debt relief, capital inflows, market access and stopping brain drain. Satisfaction was expressed at CEB according priority attention to Africa's development. The need to focus United Nations system support so as to produce concrete results was emphasized.
7. The World Summit on the Information Society was seen as an opportunity to discuss the interrelated aspects of the information society, including its social, economic and cultural aspects. The importance of the preparatory measures with respect to documents was stressed.
8. Regarding the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the need to implement its goals as a whole was stressed. CEB was urged to ensure that the commitments arrived at in Johannesburg were reflected in renewed political focus on the implementation of Agenda 21.
9. In the area of assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter, it was noted that the report recounted actions taken by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, but should also cover inter-agency work on the subject.
10. It was stated that the effort of CEB in coordinating inter-agency cooperation at the headquarters level should be better reflected at the country levels.

11. The view was also expressed that the key role played by CEB was that of ensuring the security and safety of United Nations staff and, in this regard, it was suggested that CEB should report on measures being taken to protect staff from the hazards of second-hand smoke on United Nations system premises.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

12. The Committee took note of the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2002 (E/2003/55).

13. The Committee requested that future annual overview reports should be results-oriented, incorporating, among other things, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and progress made towards their accomplishment.

14. The Committee called on CEB to further strengthen coordination among United Nations agencies at the country level in harmonizing and streamlining their practices and procedures.

15. The Committee recommended that CEB should facilitate the exchange of information on practices in measuring programme performance and results, in measuring productivity in service functions and in collaborating on conference management.

16. The Committee recommended that CEB play a role in better coordinating the analysis of the problems of the countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter, and the development of new methodologies to identify the damage to affected States and new mechanisms to determine the appropriate compensation for them.

17. The Committee also emphasized the continued importance of the role of CEB in its system-wide coordination functions with respect to NEPAD. In this regard, the Committee stressed the need for CEB to keep under regulated review the issue of inter-agency coordination on NEPAD.

18. The Committee reiterated the importance of CEB as an invaluable tool in ensuring successful inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system and, in particular, recalled the appeal made to the Secretary-General to utilize CEB to promote system-wide coordination on sustainable development and to ensure collaboration between the United Nations system and international financial institutions for the implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit.

19. The Committee recommended that CEB include, in the part of its annual report devoted to inter-agency cooperation in the area of management, information on coordination and cooperation in the fields of human resources and finances.